

**WHAT IS CLAIMED:**

1. A computer system for migrating a source database to a target database comprising:

- a set of mapping instructions;
  - a target schema specification; and
  - a generically coded database conversion engine wherein said database
- 5 conversion engine is coded to perform conversions independent of the specific source database and target database associated with a conversion;

wherein:

- data in said source database is sent to said database conversion engine;
- said target schema specification defines said target database;
- 10 - said set of mapping instructions defines at least one translation instruction for the translation of said source data from the source database to the target database;
- said database conversion engine receives said source data, said set of mapping instructions and said target schema specification;
- 15 - said database conversion engine parses said set of mapping instructions and said target schema specification;
- said database conversion engine performs said set of mapping instructions on said source data;
- 20 - said database conversion engine uploads a resulting set of data into said target database in accordance with said target schema specification.

2. A computer system for migrating a source database to a target database as claimed in claim 1 further comprising

- a delimited source file associated with said source database;
- a mapping language;

5 wherein:

- a set of data in said delimited source file is sent to a database conversion engine;
  - a set of mapping instructions is developed from said mapping language wherein said set of mapping instructions defines at least one translation instruction for the translation of said source data from the source database to the target database.
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3. A computer system for migrating a source database to a target database as claimed in claim 2 wherein said database conversion engine validates said source data and said database conversion engine validates said resulting set of data in accordance with said target schema specification (validated resulting set of data).

4. A computer system for migrating a source database to a target database as claimed in claim 3 further comprising

- a set of mapping instructions;

5 wherein:

- a set of mapping instructions is developed from said mapping language via an interface wherein said set of mapping instructions defines at least one translation instruction for the translation of said source data from the source database to the target database.

5. A computer system for migrating a source database to a target database as claimed in claim 3 further comprising

- a set of mapping instructions;

5 wherein:

- a set of mapping instructions is developed from said extensible mapping language via an interface wherein said set of mapping instructions defines at least one translation instruction for the translation of said formatted source data from the source database to the target database.

6. A computer system for migrating a source database to a target database as claimed in claim 3 further comprising
- an industry-specific mapping instructions template;
- 5 wherein:
- a set of mapping instructions is developed from said industry-specific mapping instruction template and is further configured using said mapping language via a graphical user interface wherein said set of mapping instructions defines at least one translation instruction for the translation of
- 10 said formatted source data from the source database to the target database.
7. A computer system for migrating a source database to a target database as claimed in claim 3 further comprising
- a telecommunications-specific mapping instructions template.
- 5 wherein:
- a set of mapping instructions is developed from said telecommunications-specific mapping instruction template and is further configured using said mapping language via a graphical user interface wherein said set of mapping instructions defines at least one translation instruction for the translation of
- 10 said formatted source data from the source database to the target database.
8. A computer system for migrating a source database to a target database as claimed in claim 3 further comprising
- a billing-specific mapping instructions template.
- 5 wherein:
- a set of mapping instructions is developed from said billing-specific mapping instruction template and is further configured using said mapping language via a graphical user interface wherein said set of mapping instructions defines at least one translation instruction for the translation of said formatted source
- 10 data from the source database to the target database.

9. A computer system for migrating a source database to a target database as claimed in claim 6 wherein said database conversion engine parses said set of mapping instructions and concurrently performs said set of mapping instructions on said formatted source data to produce a resulting set of data.

10. A computer system for migrating a source database to a target database as claimed in claim 9 further comprising

- a source extract format specification;

wherein:

- a basic business object is derived from said source database and said target database;

- said source extract format specification and said target schema specification are configured according to said basic business object;

- data in said source database is formatted according to said source extract format specification to produce a file with repetitive instances of said basic business object (formatted source data);

- said database conversion engine parses said set of mapping instructions and concurrently performs said set of mapping instructions on said formatted source data and uploads a resulting set of data into said target database.

11. A computer system for migrating a source database to a target database comprising:

- a set of mapping instructions;
- a source extract format specification
- a target schema specification; and
- a generically coded database conversion engine wherein said database conversion engine is coded to perform conversions independent of the source database and target database associated with a conversion;

wherein:

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- a basic business object is derived by analyzing information to be transferred from said source database to said target database;
  - said source extract format specification and said target schema specification are configured according to said basic business object;
  - data in said source database is sent to said database conversion engine;
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- said target schema specification defines said target database;
  - said set of mapping instructions defines at least one translation instruction for the translation of said source data from the source database to the target database;
  - data in said source database is formatted according to said source extract
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- format specification to produce a file with repetitive instances of said basic business object (formatted source data);
  - said database conversion engine receives said source data, said set of mapping instructions and said target schema specification;
  - said database conversion engine parses said set of mapping instructions and
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- said target schema specification;
  - said database conversion engine performs said set of mapping instructions on said source data;
  - said database conversion engine uploads a resulting set of data into said target database in accordance with said target schema specification.

12. A computer system for migrating a source database to a target database comprising:

- a mapping specification;
  - a data filter;
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- a source extract format specification;
  - a target schema specification; and
  - a generically coded database conversion engine wherein said database conversion engine is coded to perform conversions independent of the specific source database and target database associated with a conversion;

10 wherein:

- said data filter formats said source data according to said source extract format specification (formatted source data);
- said database conversion engine receives said formatted source data;
- said database conversion engine converts said formatted source data according to said mapping specification (converted data);
- said database conversion engine formats said converted data in accordance with said target schema specification (target data).
- said database conversion engine uploads said target data into said target database.

13. A computerized method for migrating a source database to a target database comprising

- a delimited source file associated with said source database;
- a source extract format specification;
- a set of mapping instructions;
- an industry-specific mapping instructions template;
- a mapping language;
- a target schema specification; and
- a generically coded database conversion engine wherein said database conversion engine is coded to perform conversions independent of the specific source database and target database associated with a conversion;

and further comprising the steps of:

- formatting said delimited source file according to said source extract format specification (formatted source data);
- defining a set of requirements for said target database and encoding said requirements in said target schema specification;
- developing a set of mapping instructions, that define at least one translation instruction for the translation of said formatted source data from the source database to the target database, using said industry-specific mapping instruction template and further configuring said mapping instructions with

commands developed with said mapping language via a graphical user interface;

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- sending said formatted source data, said set of mapping instructions and said target schema specification to said database conversion engine;
- validating said formatted source data through a set of computer executable instructions encoded in said database conversion engine ;
- parsing said set of mapping instructions;
- concurrently performing said set of mapping instructions on said formatted source data to produce a resulting set of data;
- validating said resulting set of data by comparing it to said target schema specification through a set of computer executable instructions encoded in said database conversion engine;
- uploading said resulting set of data into said target database.

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14. A computerized method for migrating a source database to a target database as claimed in claim 13 further comprising the steps of:

- defining at least one basic business object for said migration by analyzing said source database and said target database;
- configuring said source extract format specification and said target schema specification according to said basic business object;
- formatting data in said source database according to said source extract format specification to produce a file with repetitive instances of said at least one basic business object (formatted source data).